

We claim:

1. A personal digital assistant system, comprising: a
personal digital assistant (PDA);
5 an information transmission device associated with the PDA; an
electronic physician data module for collecting, storing, processing, and
referencing information, the electronic physician data module being in the
PDA; and
an automated data collection module in the PDA.
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2. The system of claim 1 wherein the information transmission device is a
laser configured to read bar codes.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the information transmission device is a
15 magnetic strip reader.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the information transmission device is an
infra-red beam.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein the information transmission device is an
20 alpha-numeric scanner.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein the information transmission device is a
radio frequency transceiver.
- 25 7. The system of claim 1 further comprising a connection to an
external computer.

8. A method of automatically associating a patient record with a patient identified by a patient identifier, comprising the steps of: storing a patient record in an electronic physician assistant; reading the patient identifier with an information transmission device; and

5 automatically associating the patient identifier with a patient record.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of reading scans a bar code uniquely associated with a patient.

10 10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of providing a physician with a second bar code associated with information.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of scanning the second bar code.

15 12. The method of claim 10 further comprising the step of associating the information associated with the second bar code with the patient record.

13. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of transferring the patient record to a computer.

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14. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of transferring the patient record to a second PDA.

15. The method of claim 8 wherein the patient identifier is a bar code.

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16. The method of claim 8 wherein the information transmission device is a laser configured to read bar codes.

17. A software program for collecting, storing, processing and referencing information in a personal digital assistant configured as an electronic physician assistant, comprising:

a physician assistant module; and
an automated data collection module.

18. The software program of claim 17 wherein the automated data collection module accepts data gathered by an information transmission device.

19. The software program of claim 17 wherein the physician assistant module associates a patient record with a patient identified by data gathered by an information transmission- device.

20. The software program of claim 17 wherein the physician assistant module associates medical information with a patient record, said medical information identified by data gathered by an information transmission device.

21. A personal assistant system, comprising:

a personal assistant;

an electronic physician data module for collecting, storing, processing, and referencing information, the electronic physician data module being in said personal assistant;

an automated data collection module for inputting a patient identifier and relating said identifier with said information; the automated data collection module being in said personal assistant;

a sound recording device associated with said personal assistant; and

a dictation module for electronically storing recorded voice from said sound recording device as a voice file, the automated dictation module being adapted to associate said voice file with said electronic physician data module.